

Subject: medal-collecting

Anderson, Clifford S.
(Worcester, MA)

1934

NORTON COMPANY

GRINDING WHEELS AND GRINDING MACHINES

MAIN OFFICES AND WORKS: WORCESTER, MASS.

WORCESTER, MASS. May 17, 1934

Mr. Howland Wood, Curator
New York Numismatic Society
New York, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Howland:

I am interested in a slap-dash, low-brow way in collecting some copper and bronze medals and medallions. I have a few score from the French Mint, and I have picked up some others here and there. I thought perhaps if I talked with you, you could give me some direction.

I have a few decorative medals. I have a few commemorative medals, some of the Presidential medals of the United States Mint, and I have some medals which were struck for Industry, such as, Brenner's medal for Warner & Swasey, one of Bausch and Lomb, and one of the Crane Company. I am not sure but that I would be quite interested in a higher class of such industrial medals.

I have also picked up a few from a man named Snyderman, 1 East 59th Street. You can probably tell me if he is reliable and also whether he charges me more than I ought to pay for what I get. I presume there are other good places where medals can be bought. Is there any way in which I can tell the wheat from the chaff?

Don't shut down your establishment in order to answer this letter, but drop me a line when you can. In the meantime, the best of luck.

Very truly yours,

Clifford S. Anderson.

CSA/H



May 19, 1934.

Mr. Clifford S. Anderson
Norton Company
Worcester, Mass.

Dear Clifford:

The collecting of medals in this country is rather haphazard as no dealer has anything but a hit and stock because very few people in this country collect medals. The best ones are made by the Medallic Art Company, 210 E. 31st Street, New York City, who have a few to sell. As you apparently come to New York now and then why not come up to our museum where we have a large collection of medals and coins on display, also, which is more interesting - we happen to have at the present time a large number of duplicate medals which we would like to sell. As you probably know you can buy at the mint in Philadelphia quite a large number of medals, ranging from 50¢ to about \$2.50, with the average price of \$1.00. I am enclosing an old list of these mint medals. Snyderman knows little about such things. He tries to play fair but sometimes through ignorance sells too high, very occasionally too cheap. If you can come up here I think I can set you right on your way to perdition in a short while, whereotherwise you would spend a long, long time and make many mis-steps. Beside this pleasure of trying to educate you I would very much like to see you once again.

Very truly yours,

HW:JG

NORTON COMPANY

GRINDING WHEELS AND GRINDING MACHINES

MAIN OFFICES AND WORKS: WORCESTER, MASS.

WORCESTER, MASS. June 27, 1934

Mr. Howland Wood, Curator
American Numismatic Society
Broadway & 155th Street
New York, N. Y.

Collection of Medals

I am still enjoying the memory of my good visit with you last month and the thrill I had in viewing the treasures in your building.

I have been looking into bibliography of the Medallic Art and have come to the conclusion that the set of books which I would like to have is the Bibliographic Dictionary of Medalists by L. Forrer which is printed by Spink and Son, Ltd. of England. Apparently six volumes were issued in 1904 and two additional volumes brought the subject up-to-date in 1930. It occurred to me that your librarian might be able to secure a copy of this work for me, whereas if I attempted to work through ordinary booksellers might find myself on the hunt for some time to come.

I am also going to suggest that if some unfortunate individual brings you a small and not too expensive collection which the society does not want, that you might put a bargain appraisal on the lot and notify me to see if I would like to take it over. I suppose the only way to start a collection is to buy small aggregations and then weed out the wheat from the chaff.

I was not able to go to Brown at commencement time and assume that you did not go either in view of your stated plans for vacation days in your delightful rustic villa. I thank you again for your helpfulness and hope we will meet soon.

Cordially yours,

Henry P. Aldus

June 28, 1934.

Mr. Clifford S. Anderson
Norton Company
Worcester, Mass.

Dear Clifford:

You will find Torrer's Dictionary of Medalists most useful. If you decide to obtain a copy I would communicate directly with Messrs. Spink & Son who publish the book and undoubtedly must have copies for sale. As you know it comes in a number of volumes including all supplements etc. If they haven't it in stock they would be the most logical people to try and find a set for you. We do not know of any for sale in this country. Getting it from England you will have to pay duty. Therefore you might better get it unbound and have it bound over here; otherwise you will have to pay duty on the binding.

You, however, might take a stab in the dark and write Wayte Raymond, 465 Park Avenue, New York City to see if he has a copy. If he does have I doubt if he would sell it any cheaper than you could get it in England. Possibly he might ask more. I will bear you in mind if anything shows up in the way of medals or a small collection comes in.

I will be spending weekends in the country from now on. Up to date things have come up to prevent this. I trust the next time you are in New York with time to spare you will come around and see me sometime.

Sincerely yours,

HW:JG

Curator